

5 THE FOLLOWING IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for treating a substrate having an electrically conductive surface comprising:

10 contacting at least a portion of the surface with a medium comprising at least one oxygen containing water soluble and having a basic pH and wherein said medium is substantially free of chromates,
drying the substrate,
rinsing the substrate, and;
again drying the substrate.

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2. An aqueous medium for use in increasing the electrical resistance of a conductive surface comprising a combination comprising water, at least one member selected from the group of water soluble stannates, molybdates, vanadates and hydrated cerium compounds, wherein the medium has a basic pH and is
20 substantially free of chromates.

3. The medium of Claim 2 wherein said medium further comprises colloidal silica.

25 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the surface comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, tin, iron, zinc, aluminum, magnesium, stainless steel and steel and alloys thereof.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said drying is conducted at a
30 temperature of at least about 120C.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising applying at least one coating upon the last dried surface.

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7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising applying an adherent composition comprising at least one member chosen from the group of latex, silanes, epoxies, silicone, amines, alkyds, urethanes and acrylics.

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8. The method of Claim 1 wherein said medium comprises the medium of Claim 2.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein said medium comprises the medium of Claim 3.

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10. The medium of Claim 2 wherein said water soluble compounds comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of sodium stannate hydrate, sodium molybdate hydrate, ammonium metavanadate and cerium nitrate hydrate.

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11. The method of Claim 1 wherein the pH is sufficient to at least partially dissolve the surface.

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